

Wealden Wheels

Your Local Community Transport Provider

The Old Granary · Pevington Farm · Egerton Road · Pluckley TN27 0PF



Telephone: 01233 840000

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2017

Staff changes at Wealden Wheels

At the end of November we said farewell to Liz and Mike. By now, many of you will have met or spoken with Graham who took over the Project Co-ordinator's role full-time from December.

Graham has spent most of his working life in the tourism industry, starting with local authority, progressing to the National Trust and most recently, spending sixteen years as Sales & Marketing Manager with a local attraction.

You'll see from overleaf he's keen to promote a number of 'Wealden Wheels' trips throughout the coming year.

Always remember that if there's somewhere you'd like to visit or you think Members would enjoy, please let us know.



Graham Sivyer, our new Project Co-ordinator.

Did You Know?

Wealden Wheels completed 469 trips in 2016, covering 26,984 miles!

Rates held for 2017!

We're delighted to tell you that membership rates and hire fees will not increase for 2017.

Self-drive hire rates also remain unchanged at £1 per mile including fuel, breakdown and insurance.

It goes without saying that a considerable saving can be enjoyed if you can provide a driver from within your organisation. Please contact us for more information.

Day trips in 2017

We have some great itineraries planned. See overleaf for full details.



'Airbourne' at Eastbourne - August.



Thank you

May we take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all our Members for using our service.

We are very grateful for your wonderful support and in particular that of the parish councils of Challock, Charing, Chilham, Egerton, Pluckley and Smarden who continue to be staunch supporters of Wealden Wheels.

Driving as a volunteer

Our continued success is totally dependent on the time donated by our volunteer drivers.

Quite simply, we can't operate without them. So please consider doing something amazing - there is no minimum time-commitment, and no pressure to do more than you want to.

You need to be over 25 and have no more than 3 penalty points on your driving licence. To drive our biggest buses you also need to have Category DI (or a PCV) on your licence.

We provide training by way of MiDAS - the Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme, run by two of our friendly volunteer drivers Gavin and Ron.

We can also arrange a First Aid training course for you with the British Red Cross. Please contact Graham for more information.

A Driver's Perspective - By Ron Smith Driving for Wealden Wheels can be challenging at first. Where to go? What are the people like? Will it be scary/fun etc?

These are just some of the questions that come to mind. Confidence stems from experience so it's important that all jobs are fully explained complete with maps where necessary and contact details.

Drivers are fully trained for all eventualities by the MiDAS training team.

The big plus is you know you're giving back to the community, helping those who need help enjoy trips out. More often than not the people you meet become friends. So why not give it a go, what's the worst thing that can happen, you'll have lots of fun too.



Wealden Wheels is your village community, not-for-profit transport initiative, supported by Kent County Council and Parish Councils of Challock, Charing, Chilham, Egerton, Pluckley and Smarden.

wealdenwheels@btconnect.com • wealdenwheels.co.uk

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DAY TRIPS - Exclusively for individuals of Member Clubs and Organisations

• **Friday 21st April**
Beach 48
Fish & Chips in Dymchurch
Special Deal... Cod & Chips, Mushy Peas, Bread & Butter and a Cup of Tea £6.50!

Offering scrumptious fish and chips, as well as other main meals and snacks - all freshly cooked and ready to be enjoyed inside the attractive restaurant.

Located on the High Street and a stone's throw from the sandy beach, this is an affordable, convenient and utterly pleasurable stop-off.

Arrive 12:00 noon, depart 2:00pm.

FARE: £6.00 per person.

• **Tuesday 9th May**
Biggin Hill
Heritage Hangar Tour
The Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar is a restoration facility dedicated to putting Spitfires back in the air.

To date it has restored six Spitfires to flying condition, with several more projects waiting their turn. As well as up to 13 Spitfires on site there is a 1940 Hawker Hurricane and Battle of Britain veteran Messerschmitt 109 on view.

The 2:00pm guided tour will include getting up-close to many of the Spitfires based at the Heritage Hangar, including the restoration projects. The opportunity to sit in a Spitfire cockpit is available for an additional charge of £30 per person (as below). The trip will allow a visit to St. George's Chapel and The Lookout Café for refreshments before the tour.

Tour only £39 per person / Tour and Sit in a Spit £69 per person
FARE: £12.50 per person.



• **Thursday 1st June**
A Trip to Rye on Market Day
Arrive in Rye 10:30am, depart 2:30pm.
FARE: £6 per person.



• **Thursday 22nd June**
Day Trip to Hastings
A trip to Hastings for shopping, the beach or fish & chips.
Arrive Hastings 11:00am, depart 3:00pm.
FARE: £7.50 per person.

• **Thursday 13th July**
The Walled Garden Nursery, Hawkhurst
Enjoy a relaxed visit to "a nursery like no other" nestled in the idyllic Kentish High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The nursery is set within a Victorian Walled Kitchen Garden - one of the very few left intact in the UK today. The Walled Nursery boasts 13 Victorian Glasshouses,



including a Melon House, a Cucumber House, a Peach House, a Fernery and a ¾ span Vinery. The nursery once served the house that is now St Ronan's School and these glasshouses are still earning their keep today!

The Vinery Café offers, seasonal dishes, breakfast, lunches and afternoon teas.

Arrive 12:00 noon, depart 3:30pm.

FARE: £6 per person.

• **Sunday 13th August**
Tonbridge & Tonbridge Castle

Take a blanket and a picnic to enjoy a free afternoon concert within the grounds of the castle by The Jon Hamilton Big Band.

Arrive Tonbridge 12:00 noon, depart 5:00pm

FARE: £7.50 per person.



• **Thursday 17th August**
Eastbourne International Airshow "Airbourne"

The Eastbourne International Airshow, also called 'Airbourne', is now one of the world's biggest free seafront airshows.

It attracts nearly a million people over the four days from Thursday to Sunday each August. The air display features military fast jets, helicopters, parachutists and incredible displays from aerobatics teams, and usually includes the Red Arrows and the Battle of Britain Flight.

FARE: £12.50 per person.

- All trips are subject to achieving a minimum number of interested Members.
- Pickups can be from Chilham, Challock, Charing, Egerton, Pluckley and Smarden. Collection from other areas by arrangement.

- We aim to always provide an air conditioned minibus!
- Payment must be made at the time of booking.
- The FARE price is per person, no concessions are available.
- Entrance charges and refreshments are payable by the passenger.

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